Malaysia (Wells 2007) and Australia (Palliser 2002, Higgins *et al.* 2006). The faintly streaked and partly buffy-rufous underparts of the present birds suggest *daurica* rather than *japonica*, which is heavily streaked but without buff below (Turner 2008).

Whether the increase in records of Red-rumped Swallow is indicative of an actual increase of numbers, or solely due to an increased number of birdwatchers in the area, is uncertain. This is a distinct species, although confusion may have occurred with the superficially similar Tree Martin *Hirundo* (*Petrochelidon*) *nigricans*, of which wintering (from the southern hemisphere) and resident populations are found in the Moluccas, Lesser Sundas and New Guinea (Coates 1990, Coates & Bishop 1997). Interestingly, Pilgrim & Tordoff (2010) recorded an expansion of the breeding range of *H. d. japonica* in a southerly direction into Vietnam.

References

Carter, M. (2000) Identification of Red-rumped and Striated Swallows *Hirundo daurica* and *H. striolata* in Australasia. *Australian Birding* 6(2): 9–18.

Coates, B. J. (1990) *The birds of New Guinea*, 2. Alderley, Australia: Dove Publications.

Coates, B. J. & Bishop, K. D. (1997) *A guide to the birds of Wallacea*. Alderley, Australia: Dove Publications.

Coomans de Ruiter, L. (1954) Trekvogels in Sulawesi (Celebes). *Penggemar Alam* 34: 67–96.

Filewood. L. W. (1974) A new bird for Papua New Guinea (the Red-rumped, Daurian or Mosque Swallow). *PNG Bird Soc. Newsl.* 104: 3–4.

Finch, B. W. (1979) Second Australasian record of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*. *PNG Bird Soc. Newsl.* 151: 2, 5.

Gregory, P., Burrows, I., Burrows, R. & Burrows, G. (1996) Red-rumped Swallow at Manokwari, a new species for Irian Jaya. *Kukila* 8: 153.

Higgins, P. J., Peter, J. M. & Cowling, S. J., eds. (2006) *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds*, 7. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Mann, C. F. (2008) *The birds of Borneo*. Peterborough: British Ornithologists' Union & British Ornithologists' Club (Checklist 23).

van Marle, J. G. & Voous, K. H. (1988) *Birds of Sumatra*. Tring, U.K.: British Ornithologists' Union (Checklist 10).

Palliser, T. Submission No 336: Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* Newell's Beach, Near Mossman, QLD. 5th January 2002 (Unpublished). Submitted by; David James. http://www.tonypalliser. com/barc/summaries/SUMM336.htm. Accessed on 11 May 2010.

Pilgrim, J. D. & Tordoff, A. W. (2010) First nesting record of Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* in South-East Asia. *Forktail* 26: 140.

Sukmantoro, W., Irham, M., Novarino, W., Hasudungan, F., Kemp, N. & Muchtar, M. (2007) *Daftar burung Indonesia* No. 2. Bogor: Indonesian Ornithologists' Union.

Turner, A. (2008) Family Hirundinidae (swallows and martins). Pp.602–685 in J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott & D. A. Christie, eds. *Handbook of the birds of the world*, 9. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.

Turner, A. & Rose, C. (1989) *A handbook to the swallows and martins of the world*. London: Christopher Helm.

Wells, D. R. (2007) *The birds of the Thai-Malay Peninsula*, 2. London: Christopher Helm.

***S. (Bas) VAN BALEN**, Roompotstraat 44, 6826 EP Arnhem, The Netherlands. Email: bvanbalen001@hotmail.com*

***H. H. (Erik) EGGENKAMP**, Weteringdreef 179, 2724 GX Zoetermeer, The Netherlands. Email: h.h.eggenkamp@hetnet.nl*

Nesting record of Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* in Gunung Merapi National Park, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

IMAM TAUFIQURRAHMAN

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* can be found in hill and montane forest, and forest edge, mostly from 800 to 2,400 m (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993) on Java, Bali and the Lesser Sundas (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993, Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007). The nest was hitherto unknown (Cheke & Mann 2001). The only recorded clutch had one white egg (Hoogerwerf 1949), although two is probably normal (MacKinnon 1991). In West Java, the species has been recorded laying in January, August, October (Cheke & Mann 2008) and December (MacKinnon 1991). Here I report my observations of the nest, chicks and nesting behaviour of the species.

On 25 March 2008, around 12h30, at 966 m on Turgo hill, Gunung Merapi National Park, Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia (7°35'18.58"S 110°25'26.90"E), I saw a male Blood-breasted Flowerpecker frequently flying to and from a tree. It aroused my curiosity, so I decided to get closer, being careful to avoid any disturbance. From one spot, I could see that the bird was visiting its nest. I had insufficient time to observe the contents of the nest but activities suggested that there may have been chicks. Four days later, on 29 March 2008, I returned to the location and watched for about three hours, from 09h14 to 12h10. Although it was cloudy, I was still able to observe clearly the activities at the nest tree, from a distance of c.7 m.

The nest was suspended 6–7 m up on a leafy twig of an *Acacia* tree growing in a villager's front yard. The nest was small and egg-shaped, with an entrance that faced west. The structure was c.20 cm long, about 15 cm across, and apparently made from grass and ferns (Plate 1). It contained two chicks, with dark blue upperparts, yellow underparts and black or dark-coloured heads. One chick appeared to be bigger, and had a bright yellow bill with a black tip to the lower mandible. The other chick was, overall, similar in appearance but lacked the black tip to the lower mandible. Based on their unfeathered appearance and closed eyes, I inferred that the chicks were not more than five days old.

During the three hours of observation, I did not see the female attend the nest. This seems to be unusual, because in the related Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trochileum* both male and female nurture the chicks (K. Baskoro *in litt.* 2008). The time between feeds varied from twice in one minute to an interval of 40 minutes. During my observations, the chicks were fed 26 times. The food was taken from an arboreal parasitic plant that grew on a tree not far from the nest, and appeared whitish-green: perhaps the inner part of the flower.

When feeding the young, the male adopted two positions. Mostly, it hung onto the outside of the nest by its feet so that it could face the chicks directly. This feeding position lasted for c.2–5 seconds each time. The other position, used only once, involved the male perching above the nest on the twig from which it was suspended, and putting its head into the nest. This lasted for about 15 seconds. After the male departed, the chicks would often wait in front of the entrance with their bills out. Sometimes, although the male was not present, the chicks would stick out their heads and open their mouths wide in a begging behaviour. It seemed that this behavior was exhibited when the nest swayed in the wind. Defaecation was also observed. The chick positioned its back in the entrance with the cloaca facing outwards. The faecal matter was long, brown and straw-like.

Plate 1. Empty nest of Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, Gunung Merapi National Park, Java, 5 April 2008. Photograph: Adhy Maruly Tampubolon.

My observations ended when it started to drizzle. When I returned to the nest a week later, on 5 April 2008, it was empty, and neither the male nor the chicks were seen. It seems that the chicks had fledged.

Acknowledgements

I thank the Gelatik Jawa Project for the telescope used to observe the nest, Sunaring Kurniandaru for the camera used to record it, and Adhy Maruli Tampubolon for taking the photo. I should also thank Cahyadi, Swiss Winasis and Febyanti Aquina who accompanied me during the visits. Thanks are also due to Yayasan Kutilang Indonesia, Mr Mehd and Mrs Lena Halouate for providing references about the flowerpecker, Mr Karyadi Baskoro of Semarang Bird Community for his comments on parenting behaviour, Siti Cholifah Kuwatno for preparing the manuscript in English, Mr Ign Pramana Yuda of Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta for reviewing it, and Andrew 'Jack' Tordoff and two anonymous referees for helping to finalise the manuscript.

References

Cheke, R. A. & Mann, C. F. (2001) *A guide to the sunbirds, flowerpeckers, spiderhunters and sugarbirds of the world*. London: Christopher Helm.

Cheke, R. A. & Mann, C. F. (2008) Family Dicaeidae (flowerpeckers). Pp.350–389 in J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott & D. A. Christie, eds. *Handbook of the birds of the world*, 13. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions.

Hoogerwerf, A. (1949) *Een bijdrage tot de oölogie van het eiland Java* [A contribution to the oology of Java.] Buitenzorg: Koninklijke Plantentuin van Indonesië. (In Dutch.)

MacKinnon, J. (1991) *A field guide to the birds of Java and Bali*. Yogyakarta: Universitas Gadjah Mada Press.

MacKinnon, J. & Phillipps, K. (1993) *A field guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sukmantoro, W., Irham, M., Novarino, W., Hasudungan, F., Kemp, N. & Muchtar, M. (2007) *Daftar burung Indonesia no. 2* [Indonesian birds list no. 2]. Bogor: Indonesian Ornithologists' Union. (In Indonesian.)

Imam TAUFIQURRAHMAN, Kelompok Pengamat Burung Bionic Universitas Negeri, Yogyakarta, Karangmalang, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia. Email: orny_man@yahoo.com

A predation attempt by an Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus* on Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* nestlings

MASAYOSHI KAMIOKI, NORITOMO KAWAJI, KIMIKO KAWAJI & KEISUKE UEDA

Introduction

Avian brood parasites inflict fatal damage upon their hosts in various ways. Cuckoos and cowbirds remove or eat the host eggs when they parasitise nests, while, their nestlings usurp host parental care (Davies 2000). Moreover, adult cuckoos and cowbirds sometimes predate eggs and/or nestlings even when they do not parasitise nests (Wyllie 1981). Until the past decade, such predatory behaviour has only been observed (e.g. Alvarez 1995, Kinoshita & Kato 1995) or surmised (e.g. Bibby & Thomas 1985, Davies & Brooke 1988, Arcese *et al.* 1996) but not electronically recorded. Accordingly, there is insufficient data to discuss the ecological significance of predatory behaviour. This lack of data could be because brood parasites visit host nests only occasionally and for a short time (Davies 2000).

In recent years, however, because of technological advances in videography, the availability of video evidence has been increasing, especially in cowbirds (e.g. Elliott 1999, Pietz & Granfors 2000, Stake *et al.* 2004). In cuckoos, nevertheless, video evidence of such predatory behaviour is still rare (but see Kim & Yamagishi 1999, Briskie 2007). Moreover, most reports on predatory behaviour are limited to the Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* and Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. Hence it is important to accumulate reliable and verifiable video data of various species to elucidate why such predatory behaviour has evolved in avian brood parasites.

To our knowledge, so far only three video recordings of predatory behaviour in Oriental Cuckoos *C. optatus* towards their hosts have been reported (Kawaji 2009, Chen *et al.* 2009, this paper). In 1996, Kawaji (2009) video-taped a case of Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* nestling removal by a rufous morph adult female Oriental Cuckoo in Sapporo, Hokkaido (the video is available on the website of Movie Archives of Animal Behavior, data number: momo110208cs03a, URL: http://www.momo-p.com/showdetail-e.php?movieid=momo110208cs03a&flv=1). In 2007, Chen *et al.* (2009) recorded an Oriental Cuckoo killing three three-day-old Grey-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe morrisonia* nestlings in central Taiwan. In 2010, we observed a similar case to Kawaji (2009) in the exact same area (c.50 m away from the 1996 nest-site) during an ecological study of Asian Stubtail. Here, we report a video-recorded predatory attempt by an Oriental Cuckoo on Asian Stubtail nestlings, which led to premature fledging.

Materials and methods

We conducted the study in a 0.32 km^2 plot in the Hitsujigaoka Experimental Forest of Hokkaido Research Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (42°59'N 141°23'E; altitude 100 m) from 21 April to 16 July 2010. This deciduous forest is dominated by white birch *Betula platyphylla* and Mongolian oak *Quercus mongolica*; most of the undergrowth consists of two bamboo grass species, *Sasa kurilensis* and *S. paniculata*.

The Oriental Cuckoo was previously considered a subspecies of the Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus* but recently has been separated on vocal evidence (King 2005, Lindholm & Lindén 2007). In Central Hokkaido, the main host of the Oriental Cuckoo is the Japanese Bush Warbler *Cettia diphone* (Higuchi 1998). However, the Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* is the main host in the Hitsujigaoka forest located in Western Hokkaido, because of the low population density of Japanese Bush Warbler (Kamioki *et al.* 2011). The Asian Stubtail and the Oriental Cuckoo arrive at our study site for breeding in late April and early May, respectively (for breeding ecology of Asian Stubtail see Kawaji *et al.* 1996).

During the study period, we found 20 nests of seven potential host species, including eight nests of Asian Stubtail and one nest of